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April 24, 2006

Ms. Dorcas Hardy, Chairman
White House Conference on Aging-Policy Committee
4350 East West Highway, Third Floor
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Ms. Hardy:

Congratulations on a successful 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA). I appreciate the time and effort you and the WHCoA staff dedicated to this important event. It is vital that Florida, along with the rest of our nation, develop effective policies on health care, community planning and workforce issues for our seniors.

It is encouraging to know that many of the top 50 resolutions adopted at the WHCoA have already been implemented or prioritized by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. Allowing seniors to age in place is a top priority in Florida and our Legislature continues to support and fund programs which allow elders to remain in their communities and age with dignity.

One of my first initiatives as Governor was implementing *Communities for a Lifetime* (CFAL), which has grown tremendously in the last few years. This program assists Florida cities, towns and counties in planning and implementing improvements benefiting the lives of all residents—youthful or senior. This initiative recognizes the diverse needs of residents and the unique contributions all individuals can make to their communities. Today, the state has partnered with over 80 communities and recognized them as official *Communities for a Lifetime*. I am pleased to know many of the resolutions supported at WHCoA are already being addressed in these Florida communities.

I appreciate the work of Secretary Green and the other Florida delegates who are continuing to prepare for implementation of the resolutions, including outreach efforts once the final report is presented to the President and Congress in June 2006.

Again, thank you for your hard work and I look forward to continuing our efforts to better the lives of Florida's seniors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeb Bush".

Jeb Bush

